



*Sustaining the Environment  
for a Secure Future*

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The United States Army  
Presents  
**Sergeant WOOF**

**PROTECT**  
yourself and family,  
friends and community.  
**LEARN and FOLLOW**  
the **3Rs**

**RECOGNIZE:** Realize that you may have found ammo  
**RETREAT:** Do not touch, move or disturb ammo—  
carefully leave the area, but do not run  
**REPORT:** Tell a parent or other adult to call  
787-707-4911



<https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety>





# Munitions Explosives of Concern (MEC) Safety Guidelines for the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan

## History

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan is an active Army Installation. In the past, munitions training took place at the Installation. The former Camp Buchanan Training Area is currently being restored under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP). The lead regulatory agency is the Department of Defense (DoD). The clean-up program is being implemented by the United States Army Environmental Command (USAEC) and guided by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District. The regulatory framework for clean-up is the Comprehensive Environmental Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA). It consists of one (1) Munitions Response Site (MRS) that covers thirty-two (32) acres, inside of the (present day) Fort Buchanan Installation boundary limits. This includes the western half of the golf course, Maxi-Williams Jr. Baseball Field, the 1300 Building area and the limestone hill Mogote area.

During the time frame of the 1920s through the 1940s, Camp Buchanan was used as a small arms firing range (contemporary with .30-06 Springfield rifles). According to an Archive Search Report (ASR 1997), Chemical Warfare Materials were used in training and Civil Disturbances at Camp Buchanan Training Area. Mustard gas was reportedly stored within Fort Buchanan boundaries at that time.

In 1985, thirteen 3-inch stoke mortars were found buried in the sub-surface at two locations in the Maxi Williams Jr. Baseball field. In 2001, a post Korean-Age, M29 3.5-inch practice Rocket was found on the land surface located north of the Maxi Williams Jr. baseball field area. These found items are classified as Munitions Explosion of Concern (MEC). There have been no records found as to where these items would have been fired at Camp Buchanan. They may have been brought in during the construction era. These items have been sub-classified as Discarded Military Munitions (DMM).

In 2010 two MEC items were found during construction of the New Armed Forces Reserve Center. On 27 October 2010, a practice hand grenade (M29) was found a few inches below grade. The spotting charge was spent elsewhere. On 20 December 2010, a Stoke Mortar was found a few inches below grade at the same site. The Mortar reportedly had a charge and was blown up in place.

On 27 January 2011, a body of practice hand grenade (M69) was recovered in the grass area adjacent to the Pee Wee Track Field (Area 575). This item was described as DMM.

MEC items may still exist in the sub-surface and may still contain an explosive charge.

## Proposed Construction or Excavation Work in the former Camp Buchanan Area

Before any proposed construction or excavation work can begin, the work needs to be coordinated with the Department of Public Works (DPW) at Fort Buchanan and obtain:

- approval from the Master Planner at Fort Buchanan,
- receive construction support materials from the Environmental Division at DPW,
- approved excavation permit from DPW and DOIM,

**Fort Buchanan Restoration Program MMRP Educative material March 2012.**



3.5 inch Rocket M29 ;Practice Hand Grenade –M29; body of practice hand grenade(M69); Stoke Mortar; CWM Glass Ampule

What to do if you find a Munitions Explosives of Concern (MEC) item

**\*Recognize** - Recognize you have a possible MEC item (hand grenade, Stoke Mortar, Rockets, Chemical Warfare-Glass Ampules).

**\*Retreat** – Retreat to a safe area (at least 300-feet). Cell phones may activate the MEC).

**\*Report** (Call: 787-707-4911-Fort Buchanan Security)

**\*Do not touch or move the item.**

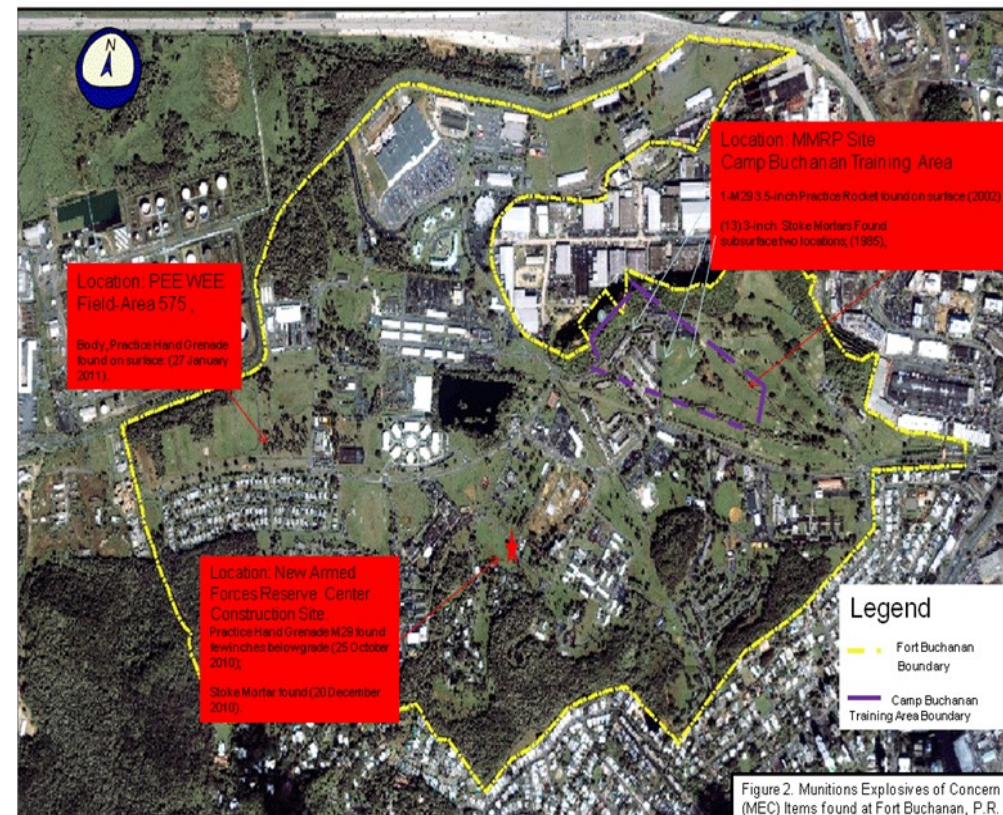


Figure 2. Munitions Explosives of Concern (MEC) Items found at Fort Buchanan, P.R.